Special agriculture zone

†*346. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are planning to establish Special Agriculture Zone on the lines of Special Economic Zone in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Special Agriculture Zones Government propose to establish in each State of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No, Sir. There is no proposal under consideration for setting up of Special Agriculture Zone on the lines of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the country.

Increasing the production of ethanol

†*347. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declare some concessions for increasing the production of ethanol keeping in view of its utility;

(b) whether those sugar mills which have their own distilleries but not having the facility of producing ethanol would be provided with concessional loans from the Sugar Development Fund and be allowed to set up plants; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government has decided to encourage production and use of ethanol for blending with petrol as a fuel. Some of the difficulties faced by the industry in production and unrestricted movement of ethanol have been brought to the notice of the Government. The Government has not taken any final view in the matter.

(b) and (c) The Sugar Development Fund Act and Rules were modified in June, 2002 and January, 2003 respectively under which loans from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) are given to sugar mills for production of ethanol at a concessional rate of interest of 2% below the Bank Rate which effectively works out to 4% per annum at present. Loans are already being provided from SDF to sugar mills which have their own distilleries for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol as follows :

(i) In case any sugar factory, implementing a project for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol, has been approved for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

financial assistance by a Financial Institution/Scheduled Bank and 12.5% of the cost of the project, is being met by the factory from its own resources, the SDF funding will be upto 40% of the eligible project cost or the amount as required by the Financial Institution/ Scheduled Bank whichever is less.

(ii) In case any sugar factory is implementing a project for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol, which has been appraised by a Financial Institution/Scheduled Bank or any agency approved by the Central Government for this purpose and it undertakes to meet 25% of the cost of the project, from its own resources, will be eligible for SDF loan upto 75% of the eligible cost of project.

Waterborne diseases

*348. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has drawn up any action plan to tackle the likely outbreak of water borne and other diseases in flood affected States in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds eannarked for the purpose; and

(d) whether the States would be required to share the expenditure with the Centre on this programme and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) Outbreak of diseases especially, water-borne. and vector-borne diseases may occur after floods. Cholera, viral hepatitis, enteric fever and acute diarrhoeal diseases are the main water borne diseases caused by contamination of water with virus and bacteria, whereas diseases caused by, mosquitoes, which mainly breed in water, are dengue, malaria, filariasis, viral encephalitis etc.

Health is a State subject and primarily, the State Government is responsible for the management of waterborne and other diseases in wake of the floods. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing technical support and material supplies to the State Governments on their request or when the extent of the outbreak is beyond the coping abilities of the State. Prior to the onset of monsoon season, guidelines and the action required to be taken by the State Governments for prevention and control of various diseases, which may arise due to floods, are circulated to all the States. These guidelines elaborate on likely public health risks, stepping up of surveillance to detect early warning signs, ensuring safe drinking water and instituting Public health measures to prevent outbreak of diseases.

The Government of India provides financial assistance to the States affected by natural calamities as per norms of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) shared by the Centre and the State on 75:25 basis. If the calamity is of severe nature, additional funds are also made available from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The